

C L A I M S:

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34. (currently amended) A spacer body for engaging a tension providing device such as a spring comprising:

a front face having an aerodynamic contour
symmetrically arranged about an axis;

a rear face axially spaced from the front face;

a recessed spring bearing surface in the rear face for receiving the tension providing device;

a cylindrical spring spacing abutment projecting in an axial direction from the bearing surface and having an axial dimension controlling the deflection of the tension providing device; and

a central bore.

35. (original) The spacer body of claim 34 wherein the front face of the spacer body is continuous from a radial extremity of the front face to the axis.

36. (original) The spacer body of claim 35 wherein the abutment includes at least one shoulder.

37. (original) The spacer body of claim 36 wherein the front face of the spacer body includes a recess.

38. (original) The spacer body of claim 37 wherein the abutment is sized to control the axial load on an expensor when the expensor is located radially outward of the abutment.

39. (original) The spacer body of claim 38 including a second recess.

40. (original) The spacer body of claim 35 wherein the abutment includes a first shoulder radially spaced from the axis.

41. (original) The spacer body of claim 40 wherein the abutment includes a second shoulder located proximal the axis.

42. (currently amended) A spacer for attachment to an impeller in conjunction with a spacer assembly having tension providing device as a spring comprising:

a contoured spacer body symmetrical about an axis and including a front surface and a rear surface;

the front surface including a contoured surface at an angle or curve relative to the axis;

the rear surface including a cylindrical spring spacing abutment including a washer contact surface at an end of the abutment wherein the spring spacing abutment is axially dimensioned relative to the axis so that a spacer assembly [contacting] used in conjunction with the abutment deflect at a desired amount.

43. (currently amended) The spacer of claim 42 wherein the contoured spacer body further includes a center portion [have] having a first recess arranged in the rear surface about the spring spacing abutment.

44. (previously presented) The spacer of claim 43 further including a central bore running through the center portion symmetrical about the axis.

45. (currently amended) The spacer [body] of claim 44 wherein the front surface includes a second recess and a forward facing shoulder in the second recess.

46. (currently amended) The spacer [body] of claim 45 further including a fastener located in the second recess and having a fastener front face wherein the second recess is sized to ensure that the fastener front face is seated flush across the central bore in order to make a substantially continuous surface.

47. (currently amended) The spacer [body] of claim 44 wherein the impeller includes an impeller front face further including a truncated end in the impeller front face.

48. (currently amended) The spacer [body] of claim 47 wherein the truncated end is sized to accommodate a protective washer, [a] the spacer assembly, and the contoured spacer body.

49. (currently amended) The spacer [body] of claim 45 wherein the body has an aerodynamic portion extending slightly around the spring spacing abutment.

50. (previously presented) The spacer of claim 45 wherein the rear surface provides an outer shoulder spaced radially outwardly and an inner shoulder surface spaced radially inwardly.

51. (currently amended) A spacer for engaging a tension providing device such as a spring comprising:

A contoured spacer body including a domed front end [and a rear surface] where the spacer body is symmetrical about an axis; the domed front end including a front face, a rear face, a cylindrical spring spacing abutment having an axial dimension sized to deflect the tension providing device a desired amount, and a recess spring bearing surface in the rear face for receiving the tension providing device.

52. (currently amended) The spacer of claim 51 wherein the front face includes a recess and the rear face includes a fastener projecting in an axial direction.

53. (previously presented) The spacer of claim 51 wherein the front face provides a continuous aerodynamic surface.

54. (previously presented) The spacer of claim 53 further including indents or holes in the domed front end to allow a suitable tool bit to attach to the aerodynamic surface.

55. (new) The expensor of claim 38 wherein the expensor includes a spacer assembly.

56. (new) The expensor body of claim 55 wherein the spacer assembly includes a spring.

57. (new) The spacer body of claim 54 further includes a spring contacting the spring bearing surface in the spring spacing abutment.

58. (new) The spacer of claim 42 wherein the spacer assembly includes a spring contacting the spring spacing abutment.

59. (new) The spacer of claim 58 further including a washer contacted in the spacer assembly contacting the washer contact surface.